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localbriefs

■ **KINSMEN:** Pelham Cares president named best in Pelham for 2009

DO YOU HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN?

Pelham Fire Department urges parents and children to plan to make good use of Family Day on Feb. 15.

If you have a family escape plan for your home, practise it, says Fire Prevention Officer Saskia Holditch. If you don't have a plan, now is an excellent time to create one.

See Page 6

Hilyer citizen of the year



MARK TATY Staff Photo

Pelham Cares president Gail Hilyer has been named the 2009 citizen of the year by Fonthill and District Kinsmen.

ALLAN BENNER
Pelham NEWS Staff

At times like these, the community desperately needs people who are willing to rise to the occasion and make a difference to the people who need it most.

Gail Hilyer is one such person.

At Tuesday night's meeting of the Fonthill Kinsmen Club, members selected the president of Pelham Cares as their 2009 citizen of the year.

"Our analysis of Gail is that she leads by her cheerful disposition, and tenacious eagerness to get the job done," said the club spokesman Kevin Twomey.

"And anyone who knows her would probably attest to that. She's an inspiration.

"She's everything that the community needs in times like these. These are difficult times."

Service clubs such as the Kinsmen are well aware of the challenges people are facing in the

midst of the recession, Twomey said.

"There's a tremendous need out there and I think it's part and parcel to where we are at this time."

Thanks to people like Hilyer, Twomey said, more people are getting the assistance they need to cope with the challenges they're facing.

Hilyer said she learned about the award Tuesday night, when she received a phone call from Kinsmen representatives saying, "Hi, guess what?"

"I'm delighted," she said.

But the award, she added, isn't hers alone. It's a recognition of the work done by everyone involved in Pelham Cares.

"My philosophy is you never do anything yourself.

"There's always a group of people involved. When one gets honoured, everyone gets honoured. I feel very strongly about that," she told The Tribune, Wednesday.

Besides recognizing the community contributions

of people like Hilyer, the citizen of the year award is also meant to inspire others, Twomey said.

"When you see someone like Gail who is always cheerful, always pleasant — just a great person to be around and so willing to get things done within her community, it inspires others."

Twomey said the club had numerous nominations to choose from.

"We've had a good response from the community, and it's always a difficult choice," he said. "It's just neat to see so much involvement within our community."

Hilyer, however, was one of a few people who rose to the top of the list.

Twomey said the award will be presented to Hilyer on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at Old Pelham Town Hall on Canboro Rd., although details of the event are still being determined.

The Kinsmen have been recognizing citizens of the year since 1988.

abenner@wellandtribune.ca

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■ CHAMBER LUNCHEON: Southern gateway pressed

Mayors unite

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNEWS Staff

Millions of dollars are being spent in revitalizing downtowns throughout south Niagara, new programs are promoting the area's fresh produce and work continues to ensure people can easily get from one part of the region to another.

Meanwhile, the area has seen unprecedented upper-tier government investment over the past year — investment that is creating new job opportunities and the development of a gateway economic centre to ensure the economic future of south Niagara in far years to come.

Each of those topics, discussed by the mayors of Pelham, Wainfleet, Port Erie, Welland and Port Colborne, "contributes to Niagara's economic future," said Mayor Vance Badawey of Port Colborne.

"South Niagara is matured to be a gateway to a new economy."

The mayors were speaking at the third annual Mayors of South

Niagara Luncheon, Feb. 4, at Sparrow Lakes Golf Club, sponsored by area chambers of commerce.

• Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn recalled a 2007 Niagara Region survey that showed 66% of Niagara residents felt downtown areas were in most need of development.

"We've listened to that and we've reacted," Augustyn said.

He spoke about \$5.9 million being spent to fully reconstruct Ridge Rd. in Port Erie, and \$4.5 million more being spent on Garrison Rd. in that town.

He talked about \$4.4 million being spent to revitalize the downtown of his own community, as well as community improvement plans (CIPs) being offered to make downtown areas more "investment friendly."

Even Wainfleet has seen new growth in its commercial district.

"What's happening in Wainfleet is its retail sector is growing. It's excellent for the village of Wainfleet."



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Mayors pictured from far left, David Augustyn from Pelham, Doug Martin from Port Erie, Barb Henderson from Wainfleet, Vance Badawey from Port Colborne and Damian Goulbourne from Welland.

Welland has already seen "significant growth," particularly in the East Main St. area. And that trend is continuing with plans to revamp the city's farmers' market.

• Wainfleet Mayor Barb Henderson discussed efforts to enhance Niagara's agriculture industry and a focus on locally produced food.

"As a result, the farmer's markets across south Niagara are growing in usage and produce."

The Good Food Box program is one initiative that's making a dif-

ference to the agriculture industry. The program makes "fresh produce accessible to everyone at reasonable prices."

• Port Erie Mayor Doug Martin said Niagara's geography creates a challenge when it comes to building roads and bridges, as well as developing inter-municipal transit services. But progress is being made — such as the widening of Hwy. 406 to East Main St. in Welland.

• Welland Mayor Damian Goul-

bourne recalled the last Mayors of South Niagara Luncheon held a year earlier, saying that event took place soon after the onset of one of the "worst recessions that we have ever seen."

In the year since, however, he said local communities were quick to respond to opportunities for stimulus funding from upper-tier governments.

In total, he said, more than \$62 million is being invested in south Niagara.

■ COUNCIL: Pelham's operating budget up Tuesday

Homeowners face tax hike of 3.2% for town costs

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

A typical Pelham homeowner with an assessment of \$260,000 will pay \$31.06 more to the town this year, if town council accepts a recommended operating budget presented this week.

In a general committee meeting Monday, town councillors reviewed the town's 2010 operating budget.

The \$8.7 million budget is a \$425,000, or 5.10% increase over 2009. However, an assessment growth of \$160,453 for the town offset the increase and lowered it

to 3.2% for the taxpayer. Treasurer Carl Papp told councillors in a presentation Monday uncontrollable increases caused the majority of overall budget increase.

Economic conditions influenced revenues and expenses for those preparing the budget

"The increases left us no room. We have no space for new initiatives," she said.

Looking ahead she said an upturn in the economy will hopefully level out growth and control expenses and revenue.

For the Pelham taxpayer the town's portion of the tax bill

makes up 33% while Niagara Region receives about 50% and education the remainder.

Once the region and educational taxes are finalized town staff will hold a public meeting to discuss proposed tax rates. The final tax rate is expected to be approved in May.

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HISTORY: Immaculate Conception falls in Port Robinson

Bells real final time

GRANT LAFLECHE
 QMI Agency

Silent for years, the bell of the Immaculate Conception church in Port Robinson finally rang again the morning of Feb. 3—but for the last time.

It wasn't to call the faithful to service or mark a wedding or funeral. It rang by accident when a backhoe smashed way through the historic Roman Catholic church.

The heavy shovel and boom crushed the church steeple. As the tower fell into the broken remains of the already demolished body of the building, the bell rang out.

The demolition crew quickly retrieved the bell from the rubble and set it aside, apparently undamaged. A few local residents stood at the side of South St. N. and watched, shaking their heads as the local landmark, which has stood in the town since the mid-19th century, was pulled down in a few hours.

"It was such a hard thing to watch," said Theresa Thornley of Welland, who was on hand to see the building go down. "I was half in tears. I realize it probably had to happen. It was time. But it was a hard thing to watch."

Her family knows the church and its long history well. Five generations of Thornley's family lived there and three generations of women played the organ in the church.

"My grandmother, Josephine Dewey, was the first organist," Thornley said. "I was an organist.

So was my mother. I was married there. I had my first communion and confirmation there. My child was baptized there."

The church was founded in Allanburg in 1871, but was moved by barge down the Welland Canal to Port Robinson a few years later, said Bishop James Wingle, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese in the region.

He said like many churches of the era, it spread out from the St. Vincent de Paul church in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"That was like the mother church for the region, and as communities grew, they spread out from there," he said.

For decades, the church was the spiritual home of local Catholics.

It was such a hard thing to watch.

Theresa Thornley

Families, like Thornley's, played an important part of church life. Her family, for instance, donated the Stations of the Cross that adorned the interior.

But as the 20th century wore on, the congregation steadily shrank. Wingle said by the 1980s, the church could barely keep itself running.

"My predecessor initiated a process, as any bishop is obligated to, to decide what would happen to the church," he said.

"It is always a very delicate matter because this is about the people, the community, that



BOB TYMCZYSZYN QMI Agency

Local residents watched with sadness Feb. 3 as the bell in Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic church in Port Robinson rang for the last time as a backhoe brought the building down. The church started as a mission in 1852 and continued until about 12 years ago according to former parishioner Theresa Thornley, of Welland, above, whose family attended for five generations.

prays and attends the church."

In 1998, with only a handful of people still using the old church, Immaculate Conception was closed. Wingle said its meagre assets were used to pay for general upkeep, but the building was in trouble. On the outside, it looked sound, but internally, it was crumbling.

"There was serious mould issues and rot," he said of the church that never had internal plumbing or heat.

"We considered many other options, looking for some group or some option that might be able to find a reasonable use for it. But in the end, that wasn't possible."

The small graveyard at the site will be maintained by the diocese and the artifacts, including the Stations of the Cross and the bell, will be placed in the Holy Rosary Church, Thorold, Wingle said.

That gives Thornley a degree of comfort.

"I would like, at least, to now and again visit them," she said.



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perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Happy holiday

Welcome to Family Day weekend. It's the new holiday that kind of sneaks up on you. Although it has been around for a couple of years, I think you don't have a firm for it. We don't expect the break.

Unlike Victoria Day, the May 24 weekend, we haven't found a nice name yet.

Unlike Canada Day, we aren't waving flags. This year, oddly enough Family Day falls on Flag Day Feb. 15, the anniversary of the official raising of the red Maple Leaf as our national flag. Christmas and Boxing Day, there aren't centuries of traditions and songs tied to Family Day.

Unlike New Year's Day, it doesn't involve resolutions to change your life. We could start there by promising to spend more time with the family and less time chasing a career.

Unlike Labour Day, Family Day doesn't mark the end of a season such as summer.

It can, however, become a treasured break between Christmas and Easter holidays. After all, we craved it for a long time. We almost had a Flag Day holiday. Heritage Day holiday and even a birthday break in honour of Sir John A. Macdonald.

However, the powers that be, didn't want it to be.

If there is any holiday that Family Day resembles, it's Civic Holiday in August. Both are provincial, rather than federal holidays. Both provide a break between major holidays — Christmas and Easter, Victoria and Labour. Both can be made into anything you want to make them.

Civic day is just an excuse for a long weekend with a special focus on the family. Since it is so close to Valentine's Day, you could say it could focus on families of the future.

See PERSPECTIVE / Page 5

comment

Setting record straight on the Canada Pension Plan

A many of you who rely on the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) have noticed, there is a difference in the amount of the payment increase that will be received for 2010.

Annual CPP increases are linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Each January the prewhisker index is calculated and CPP payments are adjusted to reflect the difference.

Sometimes, it's a larger increase, and in some years it's a smaller increase depending on how the CPI did the previous year.

Statistics Canada developed the CPI to measure changes in the cost of living. The CPI tracks changes in the cost of common household expenses such as the costs of food, shelter, clothing, transportation, health care and other average household expenditures.

CPP increases are calculated



Dean Allison
MPS VIEW

under the Canada Pension Plan Act with the goal being to help seniors' benefits keep up with the cost of living.

CPP rates are adjusted once a year using a 12-month "moving average method." The moving average method is used in statistics to reduce the effect of sharp upward or downward spikes in the CPI.

The rate increase is the percentage change from one 12-month period to the previous 12-month period.

A lower than usual increase in CPP payments this year is a result of the economic recession and the resulting negative CPI. However, even during negative economic growth such as in this past year, CPP

payments do not go down.

I would like to stress the point that even though our economic growth has been hampered to such an extent that it in fact decreased over this past year, CPP benefits have still seen a moderate increase despite last year's negative CPI.

Our seniors who rely on their Canada Pension income will not be penalized because of the global recession that we are just now beginning to see some recovery from.

With our government's new budget to be tabled on Mar. 4, I am confident those signs of recovery that we are already witnessing as a result of our economic action plan will begin to truly gain momentum and yield positive results for our economy and of course, next year's CPP benefits.

— Dean Allison is the *Tory MP* for Niagara West-Glanbrook

Noise about law

So, there has been a little fury over the draft noise bylaw that town staff proposed at last week's general committee meeting.

You see, the Municipal Act prohibits for towns to pass bylaws to allow and regulate noise. Most people accept that it is in the public interest to regulate noise and noise levels to preserve, protect and promote public health, safety, welfare and peace and quiet.



Dave Augustyn
MAYOR'S VIEW

The existing noise bylaw was enacted in September 1981 with a very minor revision (to change the penalty clause) in February 1993. While it is a comprehensive bylaw, I believe it contains two major drawbacks.

First, the bylaw uses a map to delineate between the noise in two areas: residential and agricultural. As you can imagine, the town has grown considerably in the past 30 years and the map is out of date. The map does not include residential growth areas like Timber Creek, Timsdale, Chestnut Ridge or Martha Court.

And, because it is based on a map, it is not a "living" bylaw. What do I mean? Well, the proposed bylaw does not use a map, but rather relies on properties that are zoned residential (in any form) in the zoning bylaw.

If approved, all residentially zoned properties would need to adhere to rules for the "residential area." If a property's zoning changes, the rules for that property change.

Second, the existing bylaw makes no allowance for noises produced on commercial or industrial properties. That's largely because it only has two areas — residential and agricultural.

In contrast, the proposed bylaw has two classes — residential and non-residential. The non-residential (termed "all other areas") includes all other property classes like agricultural, industrial and commercial.

As you would expect, noise is tightly restricted in the residentially zoned properties. The proposed bylaw allows more latitude in other areas.

The new bylaw removes some antiquated provisions. For example, the regulation of "snow making equipment" is removed since Lookout hasn't had a ski run for many years.

In addition, since society is more environmentally conscious now, the proposed bylaw allows a maximum of 30 minutes for residential areas; it would ban such idling in residential areas.

Benjamin Moore

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PAMELA BRONN
SINGER'S CORNERS W/ I

Keeping busy during the winter months

The groundhog may have just roused himself to check out the weather, but Singer's Corners Women's Institute has kept busy these winter months.

Recently, agriculture was the topic of interest, when it was noted the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre received \$15 million to hire an investigator and lab technicians in their quest to find cures for field pests. These days, highly educated farmers are needed, as healthy food equals healthy living.

Climate change and the conference in Copenhagen were discussed, and it was debated whether Canada deserved to

be given the "Fossil of the Year" award, since Canada produces 2% of greenhouse gases, compared to 40% contributed by the U.S. and China.

At this meeting, held at the home of Ruth Dudjak, the education convener Sophie Parosch read articles regarding the possibility of closing Crowland, Empire and Mathews schools, and the expenditure of \$5 million for a new gymnasium.

In Ontario, 172 schools could possibly close. It was noted Plymouth school has devel-

oped a "green classroom" where students can learn in an outdoor environment.

Our brains were tested by a contest to make as many words as possible from the word "education," with Ruth Dudjak the winner with 44 words. In her Minute for the Environment, president Betty Ralph read a newspaper article stating that the former compost facility on Turner Rd. has yet to be cleaned up by the owner. It has been a source of misery for the surrounding neighbourhood for years, and has been decommissioned as a compost facility by the Ministry of the Environment.

See SINGER'S Page 5

See AUGUSTYN / Page 5

■ SINGER'S

Knitting continues for Canada Comforts

FROM PAGE 4

In other business, a letter of thanks was received from Community Cares in Thorold for the generous amount of groceries donated before Christmas.

Beth Wilson was thanked for knitting two afghans and several baby sweaters and tuques to be sent to Canada Comforts, an organization that sends articles of clothing to children in the Third World.

Branch members offered to knit or sew drawstring bags, dresses and shorts (since 2006, Canada has sent 3,000 dresses and 1,500 pairs of shorts), blankets for children or adults, tuques (preemie sizes are used for AIDS babies) scarves for colder countries, babies', children's and teen's sweaters and skirts and cotton

washcloths and dishcloths for midwives to use and give to new mothers. These will be sent to Canada Comforts based in Victoria, B.C.

The motto for February was: "The dictionary is the only place where recess comes before work."

The roll call was "Name a food product which has improved of late, or one that is not as good."

Some answers included Nutri flour, a blend of white and whole wheat flour, low-fat bison burgers, caraway rye bread and margarine. It was noted broccoli was not as nutritious as before due to depletion of the soil.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Vivian Shoalts in Wainfleet, when the program will be on the environment.

■ PERSPECTIVE

Make the most of your Family Day

FROM PAGE 4

In other words, make Family Day is whatever you want to make it.

If you need activities, the Pelham Public Library has a day full of them at its Fonthill branch.

You can make it a do-it-yourself

family activity day on our winter trails, in our town parks, conservation areas or provincial parks.

For families scattered during the week by commuting, school and sports, a day at home together may be just the thing.

Important Notice to Employers

Supporting Students: Serving Communities

Canada Summer Jobs is a Government of Canada initiative. It provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers, and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create work experiences for students between the ages of 15 and 30.

If you are an eligible employer, we invite you to submit your application from February 1 to 26, 2010.

Application forms and the Application Guide will be available online, or at any Service Canada Centre.

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■ AUGUSTYN

Input still welcome this month

FROM PAGE 4

Please note that the bylaw is only a draft. It has not been passed.

In fact, town council is looking for your feedback and

input by March 1 to develop an appropriate bylaw.

I would encourage you to review the draft at www.pelham.ca and I look forward to your constructive ideas.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca or read columns at www.pelhammayoradave.blogspot.com.

Ask the
HEALTH EXPERT

DR. BRENDA WATSON ND, CNC, CT

IBS Sufferers Can Regain Their Quality of Life

If you are one of the 6 million Canadians who suffer from IBS, you know the pain and discomfort that goes along with it.

The symptoms of IBS can vary from person to person and may include: diarrhea and/or constipation (alternating), abdominal pain or spasms, mucus in the stool, bowel urgency/incontinence, abdominal pain relieved by defecation, bloating, the sensation of the bowel not emptying completely, depression, and anxiety. In the average person, muscles in the bowel will normally contract a few times a day resulting in a bowel movement. In a person with IBS, these muscles contract more frequently because of an extreme sensitivity to stimuli or "triggers". This means intestinal spasms can occur from ingestion of certain foods, gas or emotional stress.

As the cause of IBS is still unknown, providing your intestines with the required nutrients to keep it functioning normally is vital. The cells in our intestinal tract lining are replaced about two times a week. Two main nutrients are necessary to rebuild the intestinal lining: L-Glutamine and N-Acetyl Glucosamine. Intestinal Bowel Support by Renew Life works to soothe and heal the damaged areas of the intestinal tract and in lining by providing the body with a therapeutic dose of L-Glutamine as well as N-Acetyl-Glucosamine. This formula also provides ingredients which help to reduce inflammation and promote healing in the intestinal tract.

Intestinal Bowel Support also works to relieve painful cramping, spasms and irritation in the intestinal tract with therapeutic doses of Ginger Root, Goldenseal Root and Tremorice Root. The Chinese herb blood in Intestinal Bowel Support also works to soothe, calm, and provide support to the bowel.

Intestinal Bowel Support is a product designed to take morning and night. It is ideal for those that suffer from IBS, Crohn's and Colitis but can be used by anyone who wishes to improve their intestinal health. Although IBS is a serious problem, it is not life threatening. It can be managed by following these preventative steps:

- Rule out underlying causes (i.e. candida, parasites)
- Determine "trigger" foods and avoid them
- Eat 5-6 smaller meals per day
- Increase fibre (flax is a good source)
- Drink plenty of purified water
- Take probiotics
- Take Intestinal Bowel Support.

By following the steps above, IBS symptoms can be controlled, thereby regaining the quality of life for IBS sufferers.

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BIRRELL

M&M MEAT SHOPS: Beating the blahs



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Brian Schmuck, franchisee of M&M Meat Shops at the Fonthill Shopping Centre, does his bit for Red Nose Day. M&M Meat Shops is tries to beat the winter blues with a dose of laughter. Last Friday was the 19th annual M&M Meat Shops Red Nose Day at more than 460 shops across Canada.

■ FIRE SAFETY: This activity is recommended for Family Day

Do you have an escape plan?

PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Pelham Fire Department urges parents and children to plan to make good use of Family Day on Feb. 15.

If you have a family escape plan for your home, practise it, says fire prevention officer Saskia Holditch.

If you don't have a plan, the relaxed period of a holiday weekend is an excellent time to create one, she said.

Last year, 101 people died in fires across the province, a stark reminder that everyone in your household must know exactly what to do if a fire occurs, she said.

"Most fatal fires occur at night when everyone is asleep, so that is why it is so important for everyone to know what to do when the smoke alarms sound," she said.

"Everyone should know what to do and where to go to get out safely."

Holditch said a training video shows a child running upstairs to her room when she hears an alarm and sees a fire. She should run outside.

The fire prevention officer said she does not receive many requests for escape plan guides but they are available from the fire department.

"Fire prevention and keeping people safe is what

we do."

Simple steps for home fire escape planning include:

Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside sleeping areas. It's the law. For best protection, install smoke alarms in every bedroom.

Develop a home fire escape plan and discuss it with the entire family.

Show everyone two ways out of each room, if possible.

Check that all exits are unobstructed and easy to use.

Determine who will be responsible for helping young children, older adults or anyone else that may need assistance.

Choose a meeting place outside, such as a tree or a lamp post, where everyone can be accounted for.

If caught in smoke, get low and go under the smoke to the nearest safe exit.

Call the fire department from outside the home, from a cell phone or neighbour's home.

Once out, stay out. Never re-enter a burning building.

"You may have only seconds to escape your home," she said. "Practise your home fire escape plan and make sure everyone can get out quickly."



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Saskia Holditch, Pelham fire prevention officer, holds a model of a house and an escape plan diagram. The fire department is encouraging families to use the Family Day weekend to create a fire escape plan for their home or hold a drill if they have one. Family Day is Monday, Feb. 15.

For more information contact Holditch at the Pelham Fire Department: 905-892-3943, by fax, 905-893-8459, and by e-mail, sholditch@pelham.ca.

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■ RECIPE

Apple and pear crumble with cranberries

For big gatherings it is nice to have a great recipe on hand that is easy to make, and a real crowd pleaser.

This crumble is just that. I found the recipe several years back, made some of my own modifications and have not parted with it since.

The zest is key for adding lots of flavor and the pecans are simply delicious in the topping.

Enjoy...



Ruth Nixon

WHISKING WITH RUTH

Serves: 8

4 ripe Bosc pears (4 pears)

6 large, Granny Smith apples

1 cup cranberries (fresh or frozen)

1 tsp grated orange zest

1 tsp grated lemon zest

2 tbsp freshly squeezed orange juice

2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp ground nutmeg

1/2 tsp ground ginger

For the topping:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup granulated sugar

3/4 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed

3/4 cup chopped pecans

1/2 tsp kosher salt

1 cup large flake oatmeal

1/2 lb. cold unsalted butter, diced

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Peel, core, and cut the pears and apples into large chunks. Place the fruit in a large bowl and add the zests, juices, sugar, flour, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg. Pour into a 9 by 12 by 2-inch oval baking dish.

For the topping:

Combine the flour, sugars, salt, oatmeal, pecans and butter in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment.

Mix on low speed for 1 minute, until the mixture is in large crumbles. Sprinkle evenly over the fruit, covering the fruit completely.

Place the baking dish on a sheet pan and bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour, until the top is brown and the fruit is bubbly.

Serve warm with vanilla ice cream, crème fraiche or just a drizzle of heavy cream.

localbrief

MOVE OVER, SLOW DOWN

Niagara Regional Police are reminding drivers they are required by law to move into another lane (if possible), slow down and proceed with caution when approaching emergency vehicles that have emergency lights activated and are

stopped on a highway.

There have been several instances of near misses throughout the region in 2010, said regional police in a news release.

The penalty under the Highway Traffic Act — for failing to change lanes (if possible), slow down and proceed with caution when

approaching an emergency vehicle — is a fine of between \$400 and \$2,000 and three demerit points for a first offence and a fine of \$1,000 to \$4,000 for each subsequent offence. Emergency services personnel are exposed to increased risk of injury when performing their duties on the highways.

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■ **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Guiding development of drainage systems

Stormwater plan first for Fonthill

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Fonthill will go with the flow over the next 25 years.

Once Upper Canada Consultants is finished with a stormwater master servicing plan, town council, planners and road builders will have a guide outlining when and where to put storm sewers and other drainage works.

An open house at the Fonthill fire hall Thursday, Feb. 4 was just the beginning of a long process that could take more than a year to finalize the plan, said project manager Jason Schooley.

The open house featured maps of the study area, which generally covers the old village of Fonthill. A master plan to trace a detailed flow of water has not been done before, said Schooley.

The area is bordered by Merritt Rd. and Pancake Lane to the south; just past Haist St. to the west, the edge of the Fonthill Kane and Shorthill Place and Hurricane Rd. to the north and Canboro Rd., Station St. and the Steve Bauer Trail to the east.

It primarily comprises roadside ditches and old corrugated steel pipes to handle drainage, said Schooley.

Most recent developments in the study area have stormwater sewers and stormwater management ponds.



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Project manager Jason Schooley of Upper Canada Consultants, left, discusses a map of Fonthill's stormwater area with Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook, consultant Adam Keane and Mayor Dave Augstyn during an open house Thursday, Feb. 4 at the Fonthill fire hall. The consultants are in the first steps of preparing a stormwater master servicing plan that will guide development of drainage systems in the old village area over the next 25 years. It is the first such plan for Fonthill.

As a result of an increase in housing and roads in the area, "the system cannot handle the flows adequately, resulting in local flooding, washouts and numerous complaints to the town," the consultants said in an outline for the open house.

During the open house that ran afternoon and evening, the consultants and town staff heard those complaints.

People who attended talked about flooding of their properties and streets in such areas as College St. and Highland Ave.

The information is useful for its detail, but the consultants deal with the road overview.

Consultants will suggest such improvements as new storm sewers, road upgrades and control measures.

They will provide capital cost estimates and implementation requirements.

With the reconstruction of Haist St. and a section of Pelham St. in downtown Fonthill within the next year, planners and construction crews will put some of the recommendations to immediate use.

Other parts of the plan will involve anticipating what may happen to land use in old Fonthill in the future, said Schooley.

Housing developments built outside the study area — Woodstream subdivision south of Pancake Ln and subdivisions west of Haist St. — have up-to-date stormwater sewer systems.

However, development in the old village was haphazard, spread over decades and done before current storm sewer guidelines were developed by such authorities as the provincial Environment Ministry.

"There was a different level of standards people accepted," Schooley said. "And the process is a lot different."

The preparation of a final report will spread over months. It will involve not only public input and reaction to a draft report but also comments from various agencies involved in an environmental assessment process.

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Fonthill Branch only, February 15, 9:30 - 6. Free family programs.

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■ **FOOD BANK:** Some 45 kilograms of food raised

Hudak delivers canned goods amassed at his annual new year's levee

For PelhamNews

Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP Tim Hudak visited the West Lincoln Community Care Food Bank Monday to drop off non-perishable food items collected from his annual new year's levee.

This year's levee, held at Angel's Gate Winery in Beamsville, attracted more than 100 guests.

As he does every year, Hudak asked all those who attended to donate non-perishable goods to support a local food bank.

"Our west Niagara community

recognized that some of their friends and neighbours are having a difficult time making ends meet these days.

"They were very generous in their support of West Lincoln Community Care," The Ontario Tory leader said.

"I am very proud of their contributions in this time of need."

Garry Warden, program manager at West Lincoln Community Care, said Hudak's support along with the local community means many families in West Lincoln will be able to enjoy a nutritious meal

they would not have been able to afford.

"Each year we struggle to keep up with the demand for our services and contributions like this will go a long way."

More than 45 kilograms of non-perishable goods were delivered.



Supplied photo

Garry Warden, program manager at West Lincoln Community Care, meets with Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP Tim Hudak.

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■ Fonthill Lionesses: St. Catharines woman benefits

Guerre dog Millie graduates

For PelhamNEWS

Seven Fonthill Lionesses and two Fonthill Lions traveled to Lions Foundation of Canada in Oakville for the graduation of their canine vision guide dog Millie, purchased by the Fonthill Lions for \$6,000.

During the December evening, 11 canine vision dog guides, three hearing ear dog guides, four special skills dog guides and one seizure response dog guide graduated along with their clients.

Lions Foundation of Canada trains dogs in the following programs:

- Canine vision dog guides — for people who are blind or visually impaired;
- Hearing ear dog guides — for people who are deaf or hard of hearing;
- Special skills dog guides — for people with a medical or physical disability;
- Seizure response dog guides — for people who have epilepsy;
- Autism assistance dog guides — for children with autism.

All programs are offered at no charge to the client, but future care becomes the responsibility of the dog guide recipient.

Training programs are both generic, to meet the general needs of clients, but are also specific to the needs of the individual client to whom the dog guide is assigned.

In the final stages of training, the client and dog guide train together and live together at the Oakville training facility for up to 26 days to ensure bonding and a team approach to work and on-going care.

The autism program is the newest one and the first group will graduate this month.

The Fonthill Lionesses are pleased that their dog Millie went to a woman in St. Cath-



Supplied photo

Front row from left are: Pat Norton, Eleanor Arbour, Natasha and guide dog Millie, who is named after Arbour's mother the late Ruth Klager, who made a donation to the guide dog program. In back row are Lorraine Metler, Cheryl Werner, Imelda McDermott, Irene Manuel and Suzanne Rose.

arines. Natasha and Millie will visit at future Lioness meetings.

Natasha is willing to speak and promote the dog guide program.

They have already taken a trip on the train to Toronto, and Natasha said the trip went well except for the people wanting to pet the dog.

■ HST: Seminar at Lookout Ridge

Explaining new tax

For PelhamNEWS

The staff at the Lookout Ridge Retirement Community have been fielding so many inquiries about the recent HST business forum that they have decided to host another public seminar on the topic.

On Thursday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m., Theresa Deninger, commodities tax specialist with the accounting firm of Durward Jones Barkwell & Co. will return to Lookout Ridge for a return engagement.

Based on all the issues that were presented on the evening of the PBA session and the concerns that we have been hearing from our residents, it seems that consumers and business owners still have more questions than answers when it comes to understanding the new taxation package, said Lookout Ridge operations manager Ray Barlow.

Ms. Deninger has presented numerous workshops about the HST legislation throughout Niagara during the past couple of months and she delivers an insightful, nuts and bolts presentation that we wanted to make available to our residents, local business owners and the general public.

At our request, she will also be including a more detailed section of commentary directed to the tax implications for seniors.

The Lookout Ridge HST seminar is open to all members of the community to attend.

The admission is free but pre-registration would be appreciated. Please RSVP by phone: 905-892-9218 or e-mail to: melissabibodeau@lookoutridge.ca.

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Q. Recently I have noticed that my dentures have become loose and uncomfortable. What can I do?

If you have been feeling pain in your gums for sometime and wearing a denture hurts even though it has been meticulously adjusted, or if your denture is becoming increasingly loose and is uncomfortable, it's time for a visit to see your dentist. Fortunately, there is an answer to solve these problems. I recommend a soft liner.

Q. What is a soft liner?

The permanent soft liner is a layer of soft material that is fitted to the surface of your denture and rests next to the oral tissues. The soft liner acts as a cushion or shock absorber between the hard plastic of the denture and the gum area. The soft base will not halt the resorption of your gum, whose shape and thickness are constantly changing, and the reason for your denture getting looser, but it will ensure that your denture provides continued comfort as time goes by.

Q. What are the advantages of a soft liner?

To name just a few reasons: • Great comfort. • With soft liners, many denture wearers report that they can chew food more comfortable and effectively.

• This will extend the health of your gum as well as ensure maximum adherence.

Q. Is a soft liner right for me?

Permanent soft liner provides comfort and relief for individuals with:

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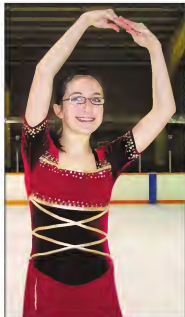
WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Mallory Tyler, a member of the Pelham Figure Skating Club, recently passed her last gold dance test earning her the Skate Canada Gold Medal for Dance. Mallory has been skating with the club since age six and enjoys every minute spent on the ice. Mallory thanks her dance coach Brian Gula for his hard work and patience over these many years. Mallory continues to skate in Pelham under the direction of coaches Lisa Radobenko and Carol Ann Woodland. She also shares her passion for her sport with the CanSkate kids and the Junior Group girls on Friday Nights.



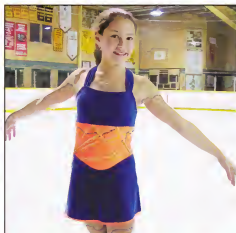
WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Elizabeth (Beth) Thorne, a member of the Pelham Figure Skating Club, has passed her gold skating skills. Beth has skated with the club since she was six years old in the Can Skate program. She is coached by Kelly Marr-Pascuzzi.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Gabrielle (Gabby) Sotola has been skating for 11 years, proudly representing the Pelham Figure Skating Club for the past four years. She has successfully completed her gold skills interpretive and most recently her gold dances. She is coached by Kelly Marr-Pascuzzi and Brian Gula for dance.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Kelsea Tomaino of Welland, a member of the Pelham Figure Skating Club, recently passed her gold skating skills. Kelsea has been skating with the PTSC since she was six years old. She is coached by Kelly Marr-Pascuzzi. Kelsea is currently working on her gold dances.

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■ PANTHERS: Gold medal glory

Major atoms win Grimsby tourney

For PelhamNEWS

A long season of basketball can have its ups and downs. This is certainly the case with the Pelham Panthers Major Atom Boys basketball team.

A week after going three-and-out in the Welland Warrior Tournament Jan 22-24, the team travelled to Grimsby for the Grizzly Tournament and came home again as champions, winning its second gold medal of the season.

The Panthers played a fantastic weekend of exciting team basketball, running the table to take top honours at Grimsby's Blessed Trinity Gym.

In Welland, Pelham started off with a bang by defeating the Blessed Sacrament No. 2 team 35-33 in overtime.

Kyle Cooper's eight points led the Panther attack against a perennially strong opponent.

From that point on, the Panthers went cold, dropping a 43-22 game against St. Catharines and a 39-30 result versus Cambridge to bow out quietly from the Warrior tournament.

Putting the Welland experience behind them, Pelham started off the Grimsby tournament with a convincing 46-16 win over the Ancaster Magic.

Next up were the Burlington Skyhawks — a smaller, but fast and slick shooting team.

Pelham was able to use its size advantage and great team defense to counter the Skyhawk

attack and emerge with a close 42-39 win.

The next two games were against the IEM Team from Newmarket. The first game saw the Panthers (short-staffed by injury) pound IEM 41-18.

The playoff round re-match was a different story. IEM's strategy was to pressure Pelham in the back court, and try to take away the Panthers' post game with aggressive denial of the ball and questionable help defense. In front of an enthusiastic and somewhat hostile Saturday night crowd, Pelham was able to dig down deep and overpower the pesky IEM team, advancing to the gold medal game with a 46-25 win.

The gold medal game was a rematch against the Burlington Skyhawks. The game had everything the players, coaches and parents could ask for — aggressive but fair play, and end to end action, great team defense and sharing of the ball on offense.

Holding a slim three-point lead after half, the Panthers started to pull away at the end of the third quarter much to the delight of the minutes and pro-Niagara crowd.

The final four minutes was as intense as it gets, with Pelham getting fouled repeatedly in an attempt by Burlington to pull back into the contest.

Guards Bailey Moreau and Tyler Grummett were put on the line over and over again and



Supplied photo

Pelham major atom boys celebrate winning their second gold medal of the season — defeating Burlington in the final game of the Grimsby Grizzly Tournament 50-41.

answered the call. With ice in their veins, they combined to drain seven clutch free throws to power Pelham to a solid 50-41 win and ensuing jubilation.

Pelham's leading scorer in Grimsby was Bailey Moreau, with 43 points and 17 assists.

Tyler Grummett battled through an injury to score 41 points, grab 24 boards, dish out 13 assists and swat 5 opponents' shots.

Pelham's Big Five of Kyle Cooper (36 pts, 23 rebounds, 7 blocks), Jared Naar (16 pts, 24 rebs, 6 assists), Owen Gallagher

(28 pts, 19 rebs), Josh Mosley (23 pts) and Chris Fairman (15 pts) were major forces in the paint all weekend long. Fairman and Mosley also battled through illness in the quest for gold. Ben "The Microwave" Kalchman came into his own in Grimsby with 12 points (6 for 9 shooting) and 7 steals. MacKenzie Brown (7 pts), Jacob Dottori (2 pts), Gabriel Marais (2 pts) and Jordan Pisano (4 assists) also played fantastic ball for the Panthers.

Next up for Pelham is the London Ramblers tournament in mid-February.

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■ triviabrief

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A night of trivia will be held in support of the Niagara International Friendship Exchange for Education program (NIFE).

It's a non-profit organization that provides an exchange between local high school basketball players with students from Nagasaki, Japan.

NIFE will host the trivia night fundraiser on Saturday, at 7 p.m. at the Pelham Community Centre, 461 Canboro Road, Fenwick. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games begin at 7. Cost is \$15 per person or you can reserve a table for eight.

Pizza and munchies are included. There will be a cash bar and raffle table.

To reserve your table or purchase tickets, please call Karen Bredin at 905-357-5645 or Bob Kilyk at 905-892-8017.

— For PelhamNEWS

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PELHAM PANTHERS BASKETBALL HOUSE LEAGUE

Bantam Co-ed results for Feb. 6

Mossino's Pizza & Subs 45
Chambers Insurance 41
Mossino's scores: Stephen Dueck 24, James Ferguson 13, Nick Martinic 8.

Chambers scores: Mark Maecker 13, Stephen Malcolm 8, Jacob Riehl 7, Brandon Christopher 7, Matt Mann 4, Brittany Volchert 2.

Chambers Insurance 41
Volcano Pizzeria 41
Chambers scores: Mark Maecker 9, Brittany Volchert 8, Jacob Riehl 8, Stephen Malcolm 8, Brandon Christopher 6, Hannah Milan 2.

Volcano scores: Tim Hufnir 13, Taylor Hufnir 17, Nick Mokoiki 4.

Bantam co-ed results for Jan. 30

Chambers Insurance 56
Mossino's Pizza & Subs 48
Chambers scores: Mark Maecker 16, Brandon Christopher 15, Ashley Ellis 7, Hannah Milan 4, Sam Pine 4, Jacob Riehl 4, Matt Mann 4, Brittany Volchert 2.

Mossino's scores: Andrew Hryciuk 16, Nick Martinic 14, James Ferguson 9, Stephen Dueck 9.

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■ sportsbrief

DRAGONS LOSE CLOSE ONE

It was another exciting game in the Pelham Kyle division with the Tim Horner's Red Dragons once again facing the White Thunder.

The Dragons were unable to win two

in a row, but put in a great showing against the Thunder, losing 4-3.

Ben Bonisteel opened the scoring at 4:02 of the first period for the Thunder. William Baltruski tied the game at 7:59 of the second. Two more goals by Lucas Gaudet and Ethan Doherty at

4:41 and 3:37 of the second respectively for the Thunder were scored.

Owen Mettler scored for the Dragons at 12:07 of the third. Ben Bonisteel scored his second of the day at 5:27 to go up 4-2 for the Thunder.

Joseph Kita scored for the Dragons

at 2:06 of the third but that was as close as the Dragons would get.

Zack Kuhn was strong in net for the Thunder as was Edward Litalien for the Dragons. Thanks to Brent Howey for filling in as coach for the Dragons.

Assists for the game went to:

Dragons: Joseph Kita (1), Simon Killeen (1), Corey Egarter (1), Michael Dykstra (1), William Baltruski (1).
Thunder: Ethan Doherty (2), Lucas Gaudet (1).

— For PelhamNEWS



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■ MINOR HOCKEY

Tyke Blue Dolphins go 2 wins, 1 tie and a loss

For PELHAMNEWS

The Tyke Blue Dolphins hockey team has gone four games almost undefeated.

The Blue Dolphins first game was against the Blue Thunder. The Dolphins won 9-3.

The Dobbie's were the force in this game with Jenna Dobbie getting a hat trick and Owen Dobbie scoring two goals.

The remainder of the goals were by Cade Royer, Riley Bleich, Wyatt Gibson and Toby Drennan. Assists were by Isabella Song, Evan Pooley, Adam Repar, Patrick Fidler, Anthony Battista and Owen Dobbie.

Jenna Mergl was in net. Thunder's goals came from Curtis Cryder who had a hat trick.

The next game the Dolphins won 9-1 against the Red Dragons. Jenna Mergl and Owen Dobbie got hat tricks, Adam Repar, Brendan Grenville and Isabella Song each taped in one.

Assists by Wyatt Gibson (3), Brendan Grenville (3), Jenna Dobbie (2), Riley Bleich (1), Isabella Song (1), Evan Pooley (1) and Cade Royer (1).

Anthony Battista was the goaltender.

The Dragons goal was scored by Nolan Killeen.

The third game for the Dolphins was a barn burner which ended in a 2-2 tie against the White team.

Adam Repar started off the scoring assisted by Josh DiRaddo.

The second goal for the Dolphins was scored by Jenna Mergl assisted by Jenna Dobbie and Meghan Bachur.

Wyatt Gibson was the goaltender.

Both goals were scored by Laura Beuger unassisted on the White team. The final game of hard playing by the Dolphins was against Blue Thunder again.

The score was 5-3 for Blue Thunder. The Dolphins points were scored by Adam Repar, Wyatt Gibson and Anthony Battista.

Assists from Hayden Karnay, Owen Dobbie, Riley Bleich and Josh DiRaddo for two. Meghan Bachur was the goaltender.

Thunder's goals were by Curtis Cryder had a hat trick and Jason Seigold for two.

Assists by Matt Iannizzi, Josh Gibson and Benn Iannizzi and the goalie was Noah Sloan.

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